



FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF FLORIDA SINCE 1941

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – RELEASE & SUPERVISION

- 1. What is the difference between probation and parole?** Probation is a period of supervision in the community imposed by the court as an alternative to imprisonment. Parole is the release of a prisoner to supervision in the community after he/she has completed a part of his/her sentence in an institution.
- 2. What happens at a parole hearing?**

During these public proceedings, the Commissioners make a variety of determinations regarding parole, for example, setting the PPRD, conducting subsequent reviews, and determining whether or not to authorize parole. The Commissioners may hear testimony from victims, victims' families, inmates' families, law enforcement, state and private attorneys, as well as other interested parties. Visitors in support are scheduled to speak first, while visitors in opposition will speak second. All speakers, in support, must share the allotted 10 minute time frame for speaking. All speakers, in opposition, must share the allotted 10 minute time frame for speaking.

The Commission also conducts other types of proceedings on hearing days, such as imposing conditions of conditional release, conditional medical release, or addiction recovery supervision. The Commission makes final determinations with regard to revocation of post release supervision.
- 3. When is a decision made about parole?**

A decision to grant an inmate parole is made during the Effective Interview. At these interviews, the Commission can elect to move the order to suspend the PPRD and schedule the Next Interview Date, grant parole or extend the PPRD. Effective Interviews are scheduled 90 days before the PPRD.
- 4. What is a PPRD?** A Presumptive Parole Release Date (PPRD) is a tentative parole release date as determined by objective parole guidelines.
- 5. What is a Revocation Hearing?**

This hearing occurs when an offender violates the conditions of their release. When the Commission finds the releasee guilty of a violation, the Commission may order the violator return to state prison to complete service of the original term of imprisonment.
- 6. What are the different types of supervision release the Commission administers?**
 - **Parole** – A discretionary release, which allows an inmate who has been granted parole to serve the remainder of his prison sentence outside the confines of the institution. Once release, the parolee is subject to strict conditions of supervision set by the Commission.
 - **Conditional Medical Release**-An offender may be recommended to be considered for this program when they have been determined by the Florida Department of Corrections, because of an existing medical or physical condition, to be either permanently incapacitated or terminally ill.
 - **Control Release**- Created in 1989 as a prison population management tool to address overcrowding. This authority is inactive at this time as there are sufficient prison beds for the current prison population.
 - **Conditional Release**- All offenders whose crimes were committed on or after October 1, 1988, which crime fell under the violent offense categories of the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, and have served at least one prior felony commitment at a state or federal correctional institution, or have been sentenced as a habitual, violent habitual, violent career criminal or a sexual predator must be supervised under this program. This is NOT a discretionary early release program. When the qualifying offender is released by virtue of awards of gain time, the Commission imposes appropriate terms and conditions of supervision until the end of the court-imposed sentence.
 - **Addiction Recovery**- The mandatory *non-discretionary* release of non-violent offenders who have evidence of a substance abuse issue. These offenders are subject to conditions of supervision imposed by the Commission.